

# THE SHAKERITE

October 28, 2008 • Volume 79 • Issue 2 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Alderside Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120



## Looking forward to change, **Bill Clinton** speaks on behalf of Democratic hopeful **Barack Obama**

Bill Clinton's message to union workers downtown at Mall C Oct. 16 spoke volumes about the upcoming election and the need for a change in political leadership, specifically for Barack Obama. Clinton emphasized Obama's plan to solve the nation's worsening economic crisis and encouraged Democrats to vote early.

For the Editorial Board's endorsement, turn to Shaker Speaks, Page 5.




# EDITORS' NOTE

## Anything goes at Shaker?

**F**ind yourself in trouble? No problem. Your permanent record doesn't actually include all of those detentions and suspensions that you don't want colleges to find out about. Even better, your record is cleared at the end of each school year, although the administration would



**DIANA  
JACK**



**DIANA JACK**


Truth is, Shaker is devoid of almost any disciplinary action. Tardies and unexcused absences carry no penalty and “infractions outside the jurisdiction of the school” earn no attention from the administration. The best part? Guidance counselors avoid disciplinary records completely when recommending students to universities.

Although this is not atypical behavior for high schools in the area, Shaker, according to its reputation, should be above this standard.

So where does all this leniency and inattention leave the students? We venture to say cutting school, failing classes, racking up problematic behaviors and remaining unafraid of the administration's wrath.



**ALEXA  
SYKES**

 When the administration actually does assert their power, they do it so inconsistently that it is hard for students to respect disciplinary decisions. Students who engage in underage drinking on a field trip and get Shaker removed from a conference will be suspended for fewer days than students who are publicly engaging in sexual activity at a school dance. Underage drinking is blatantly illegal while sexual misconduct is open to interpretation.

While administrators say they try to be as consistent as they can when assigning consequences, as seniors who have witnessed the decline in administrative action and assertiveness, we think this response simply doesn't cut it. We are not looking for tyrannical administrators, but if they are working harder to enforce the up and down staircases than the law, we have some serious problems.

As the administration tries harder to reign over students -- revising open campus rules, canceling the Back to School Dance -- the more students disregard what they say. Even the freshmen know that there's no real consequence for leaving campus because no one has done anything to enforce the rule.

This mindset that you can get away with anything is a growing epidemic at Shaker, and it is a direct result of the administration's lax enforcement any policy, new or old.

This relaxed approach is a greater reflection of the breakdown of the pristine Shaker of the past. The administration makes an exception for every rule, and the community encourages it because parents want those exceptions made for their own kids. The community and the administration bemoan the loss of Shaker's reputation as the pinnacle of public school education, although both are to blame.

# WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE THIS MONTH

With an historic election only days away, the Editorial Board endorses Democrat Barack Obama for president. Head over to Shaker Speaks to see why the Illinois senator is the right choice.

**PAGE 5**

[illegible]

The popular book series "Twilight" has transfused the pop culture vampire trend with new life. See Limelight, page 7, for an examination of the media's vampire infatuation.

[illegible][illegible]

Winnie the Pooh  
has returned from  
your childhood to  
adorn your  
backpack as a  
painfully cute and

collectible Peek-a-Pooh. Check The Beat, page 6, to see how why these tiny plastic bears are the buzz.

**THE SHAKERITE**

**Volume 78 • Issue 8**  
**2008 Editorial Board**  
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**NSPA**





<div>heard in the halls</div> <div>"OGT can't beat me!"</div> <div>"What are you going to do? Yell at me in ebonics?"</div> <div>"I'm just cranky because I haven't eaten or smoked anything today."</div> <div>"How can we make detectives look slutty?"</div>						1
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3 Sara Bareilles at the House of Blues @ 7 p.m.	4 Election Day Professional Day NO SCHOOL		6 Women's Fall Sports Awards @ 6:30 p.m.	7	8
9	10	11 Girl Talk at the Beachland Ballroom @ 8 p.m.	12	13	14 Premier of Quantum of Solace Conference Day NO SCHOOL	15
16	17	18 Men's Fall Sports Awards @ 6:30 p.m.	19	20	21 PREMIER OF "TWILIGHT" IN THEATERS	22
23	24	25	26	27 THANKSGIVING	28 Black Friday NO SCHOOL	29
30		OFFICIAL SENIOR SKIP DAY	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL		

TRAINED AND READY TO WORK THE POLLS



Muhammed

Instead of sitting on the couch this Election Day (Shaker students have no school for the first time), senior Charles Muhammad, who is not old enough to vote, will show his political awareness by being a poll worker. Muhammad initially decided to work the polls for the pay (he gets \$172 for 15 hours of work), but later realized that he is doing something important for the country. "Most people focus so much on the candidates and the issues that they forget about the citizens that keep the whole process going," Muhammad said. In order to become a poll worker he had to endure a four-hour training session. The training was hands-on and included working with electronic scanners and ballot-marking devices. "At the end of the training period we had to take an exam that ensured we were ready for our very important job," Muhammad said.

FIVE THINGSTO DO ONYOUR DAY OFF

1. Sleep in.

2. Wake up and bake a pie (see recipe in lower left corner).

3. See a matinee movie.

4. Take a nice, long nap.

5. Exercise.


(You made a pie, remember?)

top 5

WITH ECONOMY IN THE RED, BLACK FRIDAY LOOMS LARGE

The day after Thanksgiving, known to many as Black Friday, is the day American consumers flock to their local malls to take advantage of holiday season sales. At least they're supposed to. With the economy locked in a dismal spiral and the stock market crashing daily, how will Black Friday sales, which retailers rely on to stay "in the black," or out of debt, hold up this year? Last year, when things were only slightly scary, Black Friday retail sales rose 8.3 percent from 2006. In addition retail sales for Thanksgiving weekend in 2007 rose 7.2 percent from the year before. Interestingly enough, despite an increase in sales, the average American shopper spent \$348 over the weekend, down from \$360 in 2006. This year, experts predict retail sales to drop .9 percent by mid November . . . weeks before Black Friday. Economics teacher Diana Jones expects retail sales to drop dramatically, with consumers buying necessities as gifts during the holiday season. Jones' prediction is in line with what occurred at this time last year, when 55 percent of consumers reported shopping at discount stores such as Target and Wal-Mart instead of higher end department stores.

SENIOR AMY NEZAMZADEH WOVES HER TURKEY DAY COMPANY WITH THIS PUMPKIN PIE RECIPE



INGREDIENTS: 1 1/2 pints vanilla ice cream, softened • 3 eggs • 1 3/4 cups pumpkin puree • 3/4 cup white sugar • 1/2 teaspoon salt • 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon • 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger • 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg • 2 (9 inch) unbaked pie shells

DIRECTIONS: 1. Preheat oven to 425. Place ice cream near the warm oven to soften. 2. In large bowl, whisk together eggs. Stir in pumpkin puree, sugar, salt, cinnamon, ginger, and nutmeg. Mix in soft ice cream until smooth. Pour filling into pie shells. 3. Bake 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350 degrees and bake an additional 30-40 minutes, or until filling is set.

Compiled by Abby Schiller





COUNCILMAN PONDERES STRICTER CURFEW FOR MINORS

If City Council member Jim Brady has his way, your days of gallivanting around town until 1 a.m. will soon end. Although he has yet to raise the issue formally in council, Brady has floated possible changes to the minor’s curfew. According to Shaker’s current policy, no child 15 or younger is allowed on community sidewalks or streets after 11 p.m., while 16- to 18-year-olds are permitted to be out until 1 a.m. No minors are allowed in public again before 5 a.m. Brady is considering an 11p.m. curfew for all Shaker minors. Brady has been speaking to Shaker residents and police officers to gather information to justify any future proposals. “I’m aware that whenever issues like this are raised, you are going to have people who are unhappy about the final decision, no matter which decision is made. And I’m willing to live with that,” Brady said.

NATALIE VICCHIO AND DANA FINLEY



RECORDS NOT SO PERMANENT

• Consequences for misbehavior vary, but at the end of each year, disciplinary slates are cleared

BY ALEXA SYKES AND DIANA JACK  
EDITORS IN CHIEF

The five-day suspensions of two students who behaved inappropriately at the homecoming dance raised questions about whether the punishments fit the crime.

And investigations of the disciplinary system reveal that no matter the duration, suspensions do not appear on students’ permanent records.

To strive for consistency in consequences, the administration has compiled a disciplinary matrix, which outlines consequences students face for infractions, including illegal activity. According to Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson, the matrix is “a blueprint; it’s not the law.”

“If we believe the consequences should be stronger, we will go outside of the limit,” Griffith said.

Hutchinson said administrators use the matrix as a base for determining punishments, which may be altered based on compliance with authorities, location of the act and prior offenses. Records of student offenses, however, are eliminated at the end of each school year.

For example, a student engaging in underage drinking outside of school hours does not come under the jurisdiction of the administration.

“We’re not responsible for managing students 24/7,” Griffith said. If a student engages in illicit behavior off

campus or at a non-school sanctioned event, “we don’t have a right to suspend them,” he continued.

The application of the matrix is evident when considering two instances of student misbehavior over the last two school years. Ten students who engaged in illegal activities -- alcohol possession and consumption-- on a school trip last year received one- to three-day suspensions. This year, two students who behaved indecently -- but not illegally -- at the homecoming dance earned five-day suspensions.

Griffith defended the decision to punish the two students more severely than the 10, whose behavior resulted in Shaker’s dismissal from a conference. “This [homecoming] incident took place at a much higher level . . . the behaviors were well beyond inappropriate,” he said.

Neither situation became a police matter.

Although misbehavior is recorded on a student’s file, the consequences don’t extend past the end of the school year. “After the year is over, we don’t hold these records . . . suspensions are not part of the permanent record,” Griffith said. Prior offenses are noted by assistant principals, who Griffith said hold a file on each student that documents behavior.

“Unless it is a dangerous situation, we’re not really concerned about a detention or suspension from a prior year . . . we just hope the student will learn a valuable lesson,” Hutchinson said.

Clearing student disciplinary records yearly is not unique to Shaker. Cleveland Heights High School and Solon High School have similar policies. However, according to Solon High School Assistant Principal Erin Short, Solon requires its students, per its lawyers’ advice,

to include suspensions on their college applications.

If no written history of suspensions or misbehavior exists, how do prior offenses influence consequences for new infractions?

“One would hope you wouldn’t repeat behavior,” Griffith said.

Unlike Solon students, Shaker students face a choice when it comes to reporting disciplinary issues on college applications.

While most applications ask if a student has been punished for misbehaving and to include an explanation of why, there is no way for a university to consult a Shaker student’s permanent record for clarification or proof that the student has a clean slate.

Hutchinson explained that the application process most likely runs on “an honor system . . . It’s your integrity. I would hope that student tells the truth,” he said. “I’ve never gotten a call from a college about suspensions . . . the student must make the moral decision whether they’ll share it or not.”

Guidance counselor David Peterjohn said that he would not mention infractions in a letter of recommendation to a university, but he would “encourage the student to be honest” when answering questions about misbehavior on applications. He also suggested students attach a detailed explanation about what they learned from the situation.

“We try to be as positive as we can, and sometimes what we don’t say, colleges pick up on,” said Peterjohn, who agrees with Hutchinson’s view.

Peterjohn said, “It is completely on students’ honor to say whether they’ve been suspended or not.”

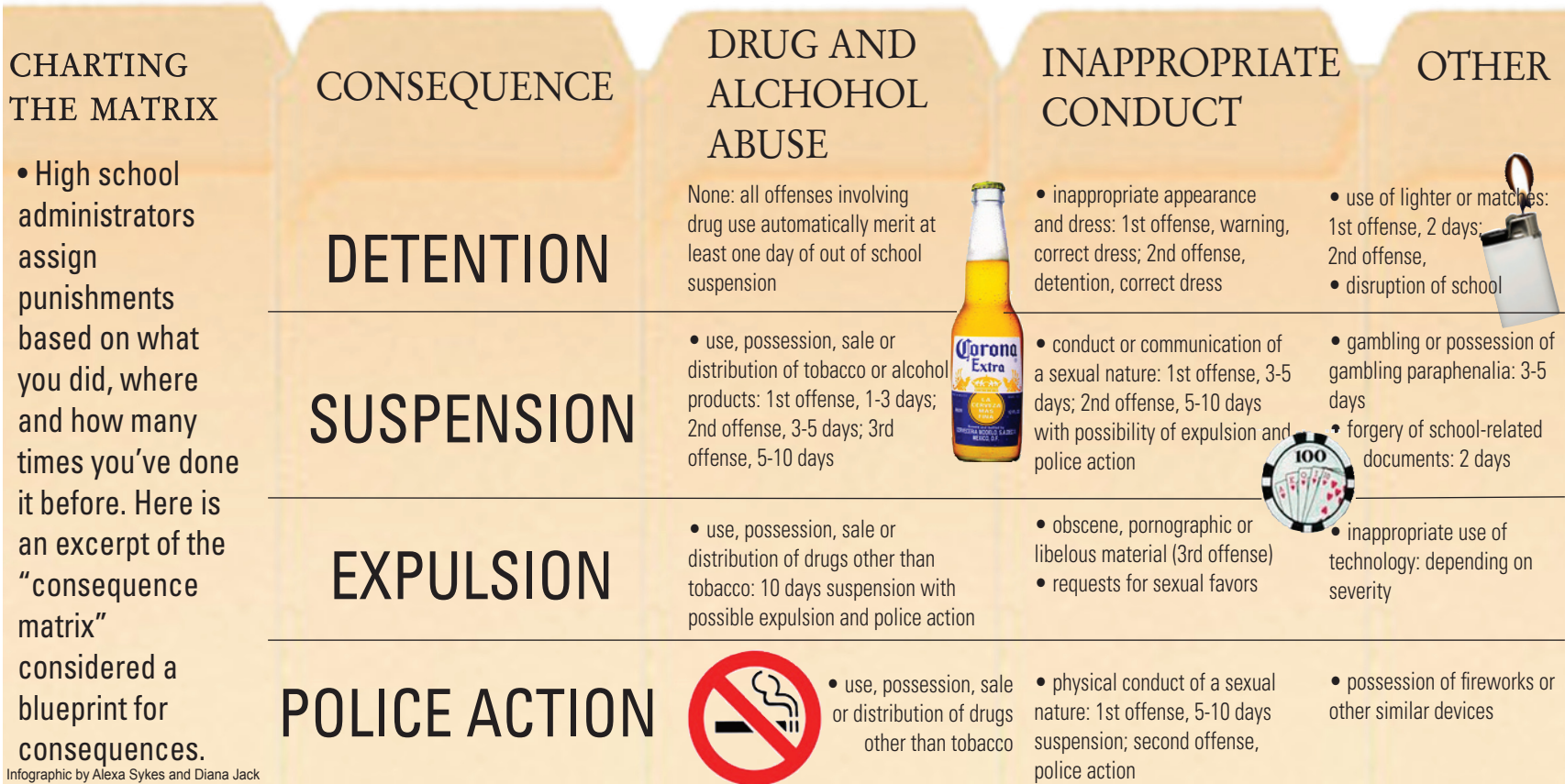
BRIEFS

AP STUDY  
CIRCLES  
RETURN

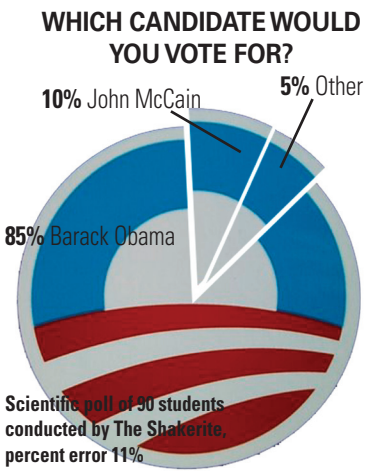
• Advanced Placement study circles have been reinstated, despite the expiration of their funding grant. The grant not only paid for AP study circles, but also activities of the MAC Sister Scholars and various after-school programs throughout the district. Study circles for mathematics, social studies and sciences are being restored, leaving out both the English and foreign language groups. According to AP U.S. History teacher Timothy Mitchell, the school came up with the money for the study circles. According to Principal Michael Griffith, the approximate cost of the study circles for the remaining 24 to 25 weeks of the school year is between \$9,000-10,000. The resources were obtained from the administration’s operational funds. Mitchell said, “I believe, although I’m not sure, there was some kind of demand.”

• An online college and career planning resource called Naviance is now available on the district website. With Naviance, upperclassmen can research colleges, manage timelines, communicate with their counselors and find scholarships and financial aid assistance. Naviance also allows parents to complete “brag sheets” about their children to be given to teachers or others who write recommendation letters for them. Naviance also purports to offer “realistic assessments of your child’s chances of admission at colleges where prior graduates have applied.” According to Joe Kubit, assistant treasurer, Shaker paid \$1,070.67 for the program. Guidance counselor Eileen Blattner feels Naviance is a good investment. “It is a wonderful way for students and parents to keep track of their college interests . . . it helps to analyze data about colleges,” Blattner said.

Compiled by Victoria Fydrych and Natalie Vicchio







WHAT HAS 'MAVERICK' BECOME ?

You've got to give it to them, the Republicans have made sure that every voter will associate the word "maverick" with their candidacy. In the vice presidential debate, Gov. Sarah Palin used it six times to describe herself and Sen. John McCain. Unfortunately, in the process, the word has become essentially meaningless. And the true Mavericks are tired of it. The Texas Maverick family, descended from the very liberal line of Samuel Maverick, has complained about McCain's use of the word to attest to his independent, yet conservative actions. The Maverick family says they shudder every time one of the Republican candidates uses the word. (I'm pretty sure we all do at this point.) Palin and McCain need to grab a thesaurus and pick another campaign line, and maybe, this time, it should be a little more accurate.



KELSEY DEFOREST



SUPPORTERS WAVE SIGNS at the Oct. 16 Mall C Obama rally, where Bill Clinton spoke.

# BARACK THE VOTE

- The Editorial Board endorses Sen. Barack Obama based on his plans for education, health care

Senator Barack Obama represents actual change we can believe in. Shaker believes it, as demonstrated by the abundant Obama T-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers, yard signs and posters. Students trust him to reverse the setbacks of the past eight years. His words have moved countless people to register to vote for the first time and to join in the political process. He has called on us all, saying, "I am asking you to believe. Not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington. I'm asking you to believe in yours."

Senator Obama is one of the first candidates we can actually identify with. We trust him to do everything in his power to carry out the promises he has made. Throughout the campaign, in stark comparison to his opponents, he has come off as truthful, responsible and reliable.

Those qualities are needed more than ever today, as America has been misled and blatantly lied to by the Bush administration for eight devastating years. We can see that Sen. John McCain will not bring change, but simply continue the policies of the Bush administration. McCain has constantly altered his campaign platforms to accommodate what he thinks the people want to hear, while Obama has been consistent since the beginning of his campaign. Obama said, "I want to campaign the same way I govern, which is, to respond directly and forcefully with the truth."

We are not willing to place our futures in the hands of a pair of make-believe "mavericks." Contrary to their painful rhetoric, neither McCain nor Palin represent "real Americans." We remember

how many houses we own and rarely go straight from the pageant stage to the White House.

Our enthusiasm for Obama extends to his stances on the issues. Where McCain has a plan for his vague definition of victory at any cost, Obama plans to divert one to two brigades per month from Iraq to the real war in Afghanistan. Obama advocates for universal healthcare, protection of reproductive rights and increased access to contraception. He would extend federal benefits to civil unions.

Most importantly, he has a plan for our educational system, which lags far behind other countries'. McCain has scarcely touched on the issue, while Obama has devised a strategy. He understands that education is the cornerstone to America's survival. He would reform No Child Left Behind and send aid to schools that really need it. He would ensure that the first \$4,000 of college education is free for all Americans—not a lot of money, but it is definitely a start.

Obama is restoring our trust in America and the government again. McCain will drive America further into the ground -- or worse, should Gov. Sarah Palin be handed the reins to the nation. Obama is receptive to what we want and need. He doesn't follow the Rove playbook, relying on fear to win the election; he possesses an infectious optimism that drives the previously apathetic to the voting booth. He has rejuvenated America and redefined hope for our future and that of our country. Vote for Barack Obama Nov. 4.



## OHIO'S STATE ISSUES

- The Editorial Board states their take on 3 of the most important issues for this year

### ISSUE 2:

This proposed constitutional amendment would authorize up to \$200 million in bonds to be allocated for the conservation and preservation of natural areas and another \$200 million in bonds for re-development and revitalization of public and private lands. Considering that this funding would not raise taxes, we are all for more money going to environmental protection.

YES ☒ NO ☐

NO ☐

### ISSUE 5:

This referendum would require so-called payday loans, which provide money for a short-term until a person can pay back the agency at their next payday, to be limited to \$500, with 30 days to repay the agency and a maximum interest rate of 28 percent. Given the current economic crisis, we think this referendum looks out for the working families who are forced to use these types of loans and will help them stabilize their finances.

YES ☒ NO ☐

NO ☐

### ISSUE 6:

This proposed constitutional amendment would give one privately owned casino the right to exist in Clinton County, Ohio with a required tax of 30 percent on its gross receipts to be allocated to Ohio's counties based on population. This tax could be reduced to 25 percent if another casino was established. We feel that a casino will bring a lot of aid to Ohio's economy. People who like to gamble will always find a place to gamble, so it is that much better if their money can jumpstart Ohio's economy and make the state more of a tourist destination.

YES ☒ NO ☐

NO ☐

Compiled By Kelsey DeForest, Emily Gross-Rosenblatt and Evan Wheeler



## THE HISTORY BEHIND THE LOVEABLE BEAR

Winnie the Pooh has long been a staple of American toy culture, but the cute, cuddly bear is not entirely American in origin. During World War One, American lieutenant Henry Colebourn named a black bear he found in Ontario, Canada after his hometown of Winnipeg, Manitoba. This name was later shortened to "Winnie," and the bear went on to become a military mascot. In 1919, after the war, Colebourn gave the bear to the London Zoo. It was here that Winnie inspired British author A.A. Milne to use as a character for his writing, partly because his son, Christopher Robin, loved Winnie. The books were first published in 1926 and promptly took off, as they were translated into more than 25 languages and made into films. So although Peek-A-Poohs are a recent fad, the bear inside the costume has been around for decades.



ADRIA KINNEY

# peeking into peek POOHs



BY TAYLOR SMITH  
THE BEAT EDITOR

While most of us have long ago filed our Winnie the Pooh memories in a toy chest with our Beanie Babies, junior Chloe Koslen spends quality time with Pooh everyday. Koslen, who collects the tiny, plastic bears called Peek-A-Poohs, has been collecting since the middle of last year and currently has 25. She has purchased most of her Peek-A-Poohs from eBay or from specialized vending machines. "I collect Peek-A-Poohs because they're cute, tiny, and not many people have them," Koslen stated in a Facebook message.



Peek-A-Poohs are sold online or in these Gacha vending machines; one is located at Richmond Mall. Prices depend on the type or edition of Peek-A-Pooh, which are sold either individually or in an edition. Some editions are Summer Splash, Acre Woods, Back To School, Garden, Circus and Jungle. Koslen caught on to the trend of collecting from junior Tamar Kodish, who has 63 Peek-A-Poohs.

Why do we collect? There is no definite answer. As seen on a website titled The Psychology of Collecting, collecting could be re-

lated to our need to store supplies and to provide bonding experiences. By displaying their possessions, collectors attract attention. Both Kodish and Koslen hang their Peek-A-Poohs on their bookbags or on their cell phones. Students often see the Peek-A-Poohs and ask them questions about what they are, or simply comment on their cute looks. Kodish stated that she enjoys talking about her Peek-A-Poohs to people. She loves to show them and trade them with people, which proves that collecting can promote interacting with others.

Also, specialists speculate collecting is merely as a hobby, which individuals pursue for unique reasons. Author Judith Katz-Schwartz stated, "Some people collect for investment. Some collect for pleasure. Some folks do it to learn about history. And some people 'save things' because it helps them to calm fears."

Koslen doesn't attach any big ideas to her Peek-A-Poohs hobby.

"I pretty much don't have a reason for collecting; they're just cute and fun," she said.

Reminiscing about childhood also prompts collecting;

childhood toys can bring comfort and joy to adolescents and adults. On the same collecting site, Dr. Robert Thompson, a professor in film and TV at Syracuse University and president of the Popular Culture Association, talks about recreating his childhood from everyday items that were used in his youth. "If I want to create my own past, I can go to eBay, find the things that were part of my past, and build up a museum of my personal life."

Like Thompson, our own Kodish reflects on her past by not only collecting Peek-A-Poohs, but also has collections of frogs, pins and snow globes.

A final reason often associated with collecting is the thrill of the hunt, which used to involve food and now focuses on, well, Peek-A-Poohs. Kodish describes how exciting it is to find out that she has completed collecting an edition of Peek-A-Poohs. Koslen doesn't collect by edition, but does have a couple completed editions that she has purchased. Both students have not paid more than a couple of dollars for each of their Peek-A-Poohs, but love them anyways.



www.ADreamStore.com

• Peek-A-Poohs weren't the first toys to explode into a huge fad. Here are a few of the most popular, iconic collectables from each decade of the past 50 years, and just how many people had to have them

1950



**Mr. Potato Head**  
more than  
300 million sold



1960



**G.I. Joe**  
more than  
75 million sold

1970



**Cabbage Patch Kids**  
95 million toys sold

1990



**Beanie Babies**  
more than  
100 million sold

2000

**Razor Scooter**  
60 million sold



John Fletcher • The Shakerite





Photo courtesy of www.oskarlewis.com

SHAKER ALUM AND FILM STAR PAUL NEWMAN DIES

Shaker alumnus Paul Newman ('43), a seven-time Academy Award winner and co-founder of Newman's Own organic foods, died Sept. 26. Newman, who is said to have the most famous blue eyes in film history, was voted Most Talented Boy by his graduating class. Today, few students are familiar with Newman's acting credentials, as his most popular movies were produced from the 1950s to 1970s. Theater student Melissa Freilich suggests viewing "Cat on A Hot Tin Roof" because "Newman is good at playing the 'strong and silent' type. It's a very dramatic part, but he doesn't overdo it." He was also known for his social conscience. Newman's Own has donated \$250 million to charities in the last 26 years, and Newman earned a spot on President Richard Nixon's enemy list by campaigning for Eugene McCarthy in 1968.

JULIA CELESTE



VORACIOUS VAMPS

• Though the Twilight series has revamped the vampire literature scene, the undead have been around for a while. Limelight takes look at this supernatural phenomenon.

BY SIMONE DUVAL LIMELIGHT EDITOR

Vampires. Werewolves. Romance? Not typically components of a successful book plot, this odd ensemble is central to the wildly successful Twilight series, a collection of four books by Stephanie Meyer. More than 5.3 million copies of the first three books have sold in the U.S., and the series' final book, "Breaking Dawn," sold 1.3 million copies in its first 24 hours of release. A film adaptation of the "Twilight" novel will reach theaters Nov. 21.



1897 Bram Stoker publishes "Dracula."



1964 "The Addams Family", a TV show about a family with a vampire-like mother and monster relatives, airs.



1997 TV's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" is a high schooler who kills evil vampires and dates a good one.



1999 "The Prisoner of Azkaban", the third Harry Potter book, which includes vampire-like Dementors, is released.

pire or not in order to be with Edward.

Monsters aside, the series has garnered devoted fans among high school females, and booksellers have responded with Harry Potteresque midnight release parties.

Junior Hannah Wren, an avid Twilight fan, attended a book release party at Barnes and Noble at Eaton for "Breaking Dawn." According to Wren, Barnes and Noble encouraged fans to dress up for a costume contest, participate in a debate about favorite characters and create crafts. Wren waited at the store until 12 a.m. for the book's release.

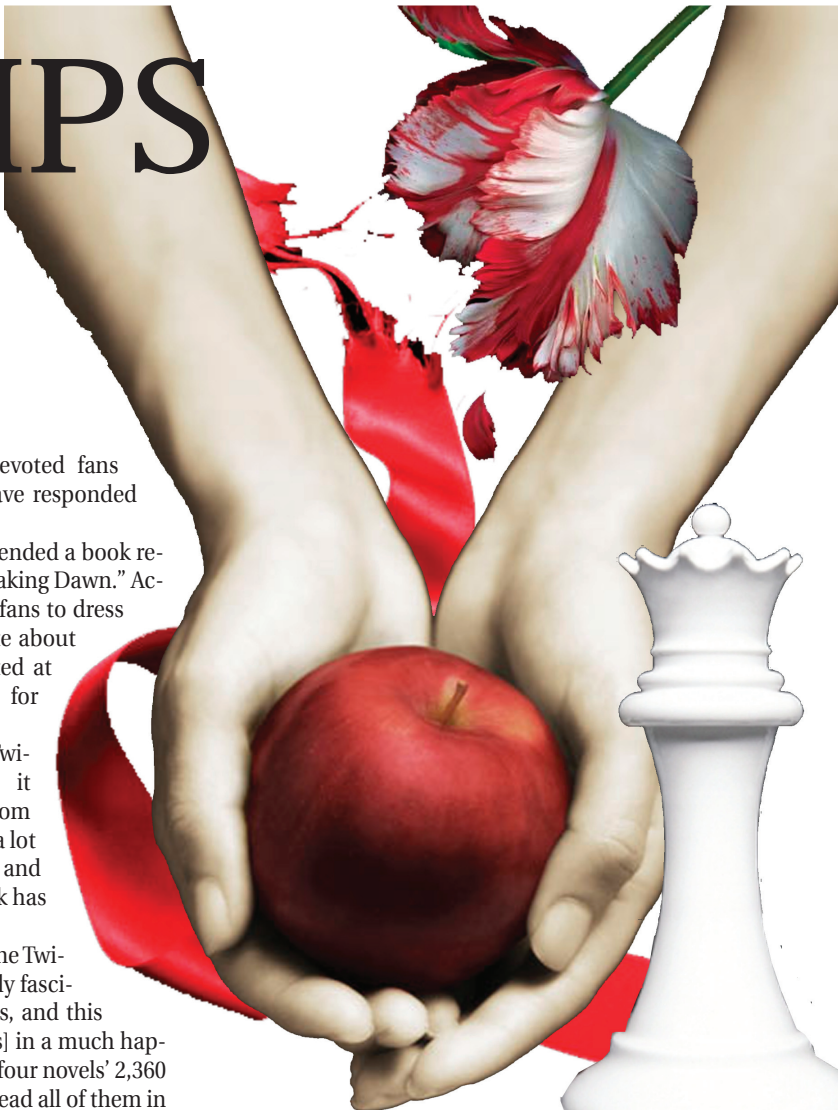
Wren likes the Twilight series because it departs from the typical gloom of vampire literature. "Opposed to a lot of vamp books, it's not just dark and evil and horror, but it's mixed with romance, which I think has more appeal for girls," she said.

Alyssa Taylor's interest in vampires led her to the Twilight books. "I love them because I am legitimately fascinated by different authors' portrayal of vampires, and this [series] I found did a good job, putting [vampires] in a much happier light," the senior stated in an email. And the four novels' 2,360 pages were no match for Taylor's enthusiasm. "I read all of them in less than a week and a half... consecutively," she said.

Aside from the large fan base of teenage girls, the Twilight series has also won over many a parent in response to the abstinence message of the books. A New York Times article from Aug. 2 that discusses the books' skyrocketing popularity stated that, "the books have also been embraced by conservative-minded women in their 20s and 30s who praise the squeaky-clean morals of the books' teenage heroine. ([The main characters] kiss now and then, but that's about it, and the vampires drink animal blood rather than human blood.)"

English teacher Valerie Doersen reads the books in order to take a break from her regular heavy-duty reading. "They're just fun, like intellectual candy," Doersen stated in an email. And concerning the books' substance-free message, Doersen wrote, "I think that having [the main characters] have sex... would've taken away from the erotic tension of the books, and cheapened their relationship so in a way, I guess they do promote abstinence, which makes sense because [the author] is Mormon."

Although "Twilight" has gained media buzz, it's not the first or only pop culture representation of vampires to take off. Lately, vampires are everywhere. A recent New York Post story proclaimed that "[dark] economic times, the new HBO show True Blood and the



upcoming cult vampire movie 'Twilight' have drawn out our thirst for the undead." The story, which can be found at the Post's website, features a Photoshopped vampire version of presidential hopeful John McCain, vampiric trends in art and food (think bloody sausages and stained canvases) and lastly, gothic clothing inspirations by Burberry, Alexander McQueen and a few New York boutiques.

Despite the mounting multi-media depictions of vampirism, the most ardent admirers of vampires remain devoted to the original way vampires became known: books. Since Bram Stoker's "Dracula" was published in 1897, it has never been out of print.

Elise Howard, senior vice president and associate publisher of HarperCollins Children's Books, told "Publisher's Weekly" that vampires are an enduring trend. "Vampires are slightly dangerous, slightly otherworldly, but they still have essentially human traits, which make them 'appropriate' love interests," says Howard of the archetype's popularity. "The 'forbidden love' story is always appealing," she adds.

Caitlin O'Conner, a senior who has read "Twilight" and "New Moon," agrees. "Vampires are secretive and seductive," she said. "Dracula seduced people... so I think vampires have evolved to become more attractive figures, and people are somewhat afraid of them because they are so attractive." Added O'Conner, "This comes up in the 'Twilight' books too, because Edward is the most attractive [person] anyone's ever seen, but he's a vampire... but then again he's not a bad vampire, so it kind of puts a whole new spin on things."





## WOMEN'S SOCCER PREVAILS VS MENTOR -- AT LAST

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the women's varsity soccer team beat the Mentor Cardinals. The Raiders battled in the District II semi-final game Oct. 20, winning 6-0. Junior co-captain Kaley Shlaes scored four of the six goals. Earlier this season, the Raiders lost to the Cardinals 5-2. However, this did not stop the Raiders from coming into the second game more confident than ever. "I thought we had a chance," Shlaes said. After the shutout, the women were ecstatic about breaking the 20-year drought. "I was so excited and very proud of the team," Shlaes said.



PATRICK POHLMAN

# GOLFER MAKES STATE DEBUT FOR WOMEN'S TEAM

• Placing first in sectional, district play, junior Caitlin Kempton paves way for Shaker's women's golf in state tourney

BY DIANA JACK  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Junior golfer Caitlin Kempton became Shaker's first female to advance to the state tournament Oct. 17 and 18. After shooting an 85 in horrible weather in sectionals and advancing to districts and shooting a 74, the lowest score ever for a female on the Lost Nation course, Kempton found herself among the top 5 percent of the state's golfers, according to her coach, Fred Weed.

The four top-scoring individual golfers advance based on their top four scores from each round: Kempton was number one in both sectionals and districts.

Kempton has been golfing since she was four and has been on the school team since freshman year. "I know that it will go through history that I was the first, [to go to states]" said Kempton, who shot a 90 and a 94 for a combined score of 184 in the states competition.

The states appearance comes just one year after Julian Bruell ('08) became the first male golfer from Shaker to advance to that level. The sudden spurt of success signifies hope for the future, Weed said.

"It's exciting for Caitlin, and for the golf program. We hope it springboards us into becoming a better program," he said. The current women's golf team, five members strong, is in need of publicity, and Weed thinks this might be its big break.



Courtesy of Caitlin Kempton

"There's a lot of competition at [Shaker]," he said. "Girls play field hockey, soccer, or leave the school and play for private schools, or they just aren't aware of the team."

Athletic Director Don Readance agrees, saying the spotlight on Kempton should heighten interest in the program, now in its seventh season.

"Hopefully, it will spur more participation and interest. It can only help to have that type of experience," he said.

For now, however, the team is a very tight unit, helping each other, and especially Kempton, along the way.

"They call me up, tell me to be calm, good luck, and have a good time," Kempton said. The girls play with a family attitude, not really with a competitive spirit. "We didn't really care if we won or not, we just played as a team," she continued.

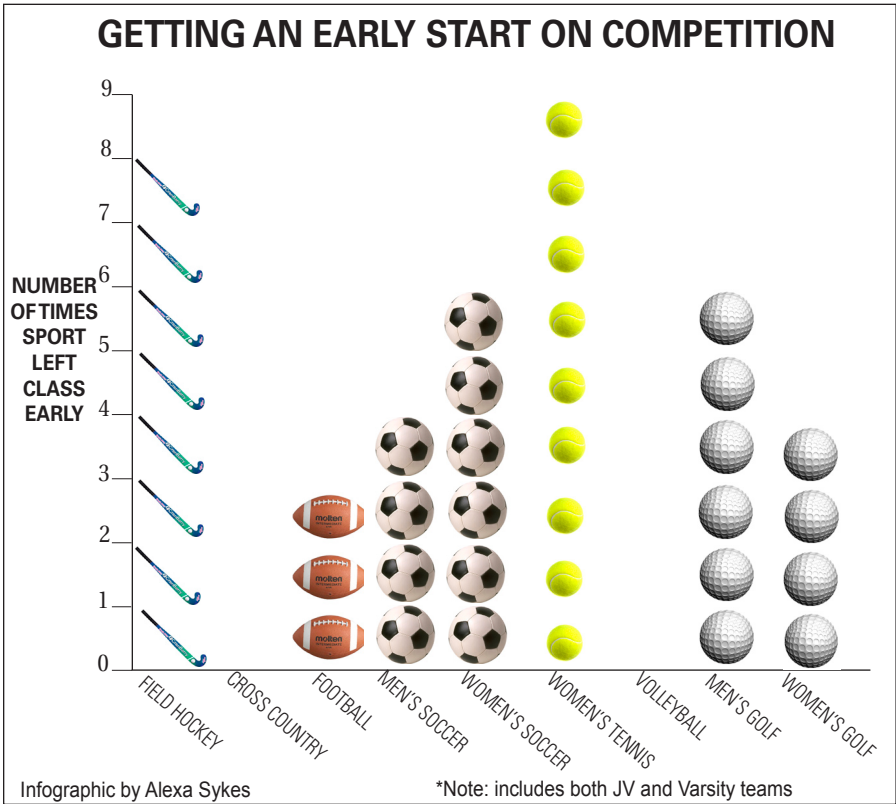
With Kempton's continual excellence on the greens, she hopes to make it to states again, and possibly win next year. In the short run, however, a boost in interest is what the women's golf team is hoping for.



Courtesy of Caitlin Kempton

JUNIOR CAITLIN KEMPTON winds up for a shot at the Canterbury golf course. Her appearance at the state competition was the first by a female golfer from Shaker. "I didn't play the best that I wanted to, but there's always next year," she said. She shot a 90 and a 94 on two different days; her final score was 184.

# 10th period takes second place in fall sports competition



BY ALEXA SYKES  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Schedules of fall sports teams took a toll on tenth period this year.

Some fall athletes missed as many as nine tenth period classes due to early dismissals for travel to away contests. According to Athletic Director Don Readance, early departure from school is based on the starting time of the contest and its location.

The standard away game start time of 4:30 p.m. was pushed back from 4 p.m. a few years ago to allow for travel time. Starting games later than 4:30 p.m. is not practical. "You'll start to run into daylight issues," Readance said.

Head strength and conditioning coach Mark Hoskins estimated that at least an hour of travel time must be allotted for games on the West Side.

Senior tennis player Alex Komp hasn't run into significant issues with missing class and making up work. "My teachers are more than willing to let me leave early as long as I give enough notice," she said.

Although Government and Economics teacher Kim Owens is not personally frustrated by athletes' early departures, she feels they create a bigger burden on the athletes themselves.

"They already spend a lot of time practicing, then losing valuable class time is making them do double the work," said Owens, who teaches Advance Plac-

ement Government tenth period. She allows her students to attend class periods earlier in the day so they don't fall behind.

Senior soccer player Kelly Sommers estimated leaving tenth period early five or six times throughout the fall season, but more frequently in previous years. Sommers, who has an art class during tenth period, makes arrangements with her teacher outside of the class period in order to maintain her progress.

"I try to see my teachers during my free period to work on projects," she said.

Hoskins, who also teaches Bioethics, values his classroom time over athletic time. "I am a teacher first, and a coach second," he said. While he understands the high demands and pressures of sports firsthand, Hoskins said, "I would be frustrated if a student consistently missed my class . . . academics always have priority over sports."

Readance explained that athletes know their academic obligations. "Students are made aware of the fact that it is their responsibility to get notes and assignments from their classmates or their teacher if they have to miss a class or part of a class."

According to Readance, Shaker students are not the only ones leaving class early. "These times and schedules are the same all across the state of Ohio. There is nothing that is done at Shaker that is any different at other schools."